

**MACo District 6 & 7 Meeting**  
**Wednesday, June 13, 2007**  
**Geyser Senior Center, Geyser, Montana**  
**Minutes**

Carl Seilstad called the MACo District 6 & 7 meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. on June 13, 2007. Those in attendance were Sheryl Wood; Harold Blattie; Carl Seilstad, Fergus; Maureen Davey, Stillwater; David Paugh, Golden Valley; Leslie Burroughs, Golden Valley; John Jensen, Fergus; Jerry Friend, Stillwater; Sue Olson, Musselshell; Mike Kilby, Musselshell; Tom Bennett, Wheatland; Bill Kennedy, Yellowstone; John Ostlund, Yellowstone; Charles, Yellowstone Lobbyist; Ken Ronish, Fergus; Tucker Hughes, Judith Basin, Cody McDonald, Judith Basin; Jerome Kolar, Judith Basin; Chris Christensen, Public Safety Services Bureau; John Prinkki, Carbon; Mike Waite, Denny Rehberg Rep.; Rick Reed, Sweetgrass; Lloyd Berg, Sweetgrass; Phillip Hathaway, Sweetgrass.

Approval of Minutes – The minutes for the May 15 and August 16, 2006 meetings were not available for reading. Will be read and approved at next meeting.

**MACo FY 2008 Proposed Budget** – Harold presented the current FY expenses and incomes. No major changes to FY 2008 budget. Reported business as usual with exception to variances of conferences and unanticipated high cash reserve. Health insurance costs are rising. Printing costs adjusted changing to in house. Legislative activity is in need of more involvement from commissioners for interim committees. A deficit budget was anticipated but came in under budget. Proposing to increase dues to cost of living costs rather than small increments in the fee schedule based on taxable value.

Bill Kennedy raised a suggestion on the dues issue – National Resources person under MACo to handle the various needs and lobbying for each county in house, i.e. timber, oil and gas, coal, wind, etc. Requested projection of costs and needs to be ready for board meeting. Further discussion ensued. **Bill Kennedy moved to prepare a presentation and go to the board asking for a full time Natural Resources representative /lobbyist position to represent the counties interests. Seconded by Maureen Davey.** Motion passed.

**MACo Affiliate and Associate Membership Program** – Harold and Sheryl are asking counties to contact their local businesses and vendors as corporate sponsors to raise monies and keep dues down. Will have a structured program available for corporate sponsors starting July 2007.

**District Chair Election – District 6**

Carl Seilstad nominated, seconded. Carl Seilstad accepted. No further nominations. Vote called, election complete.

Vice Chair nomination Jerome Kolar. No further nominations. Vote called, election passed.

**Nominations – MACo 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President**

Reaffirm Carl Seilstad, previously nominated at the District 4 & 5 meeting.

**Nominations – MACo Fiscal Officer**

Allan Underdal was nominated at District 4 & 5 meeting. Reaffirmed. No further nominations.

**MACo Board of Directors Report**, John Prinkki – Harold and Sheryl did an excellent job at legislative efforts. Working on clarifying relationship among the three trusts. Salary adjustment made to be more competitive. MSU Extension is offering a presentation, June 28<sup>th</sup>, on clean renewable bonds and what counties should be aware of in order to participate in the CREBs program.

**Chris Christensen, Public Safety Services Bureau**, State Legislative Report – 911 options and phases; cell phones; vonage – looking at Next Generation. Interoperability System, the emergency radio system in Montana. Questions and discussion followed report.

**Association Staff Report** – Harold Blattie reviewed the NACo/MACo Prescription Drug Card, available Inmate Medical Insurance, Nationwide Retirement Solutions. Handouts provided.

**2010 Census – Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA)** - Sheryl Wood— The key component to success of the upcoming 2010 Census is involvement of local counties updating addresses. Montana loses \$165 per person per year for each person/address not counted.

**Legislative Report** – Harold Blattie and Sheryl Wood provided a summary of the status of bills and legislative activity from the recent 60<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session, Special Session, and Interim Committee Activities. There are many new bills passed that will effect counties.

Bill Kennedy overviewed DHHS issues in Legislature: Veteran Cemetery Bill; Veteran Cemetery Maintenance bill; Mental Health. Each county should have a contract in place for services charged at 62%. 72 hour presumptive – state pay for the first 72 hours then the county picks up the rest of the pre-commitment. CHIP now at 175% above poverty level. All in all it was a fairly successful legislative session.

**MT DNRC Fire Report** – Dick Warren – 3 bills went through that deals with fire: SB 145 establishes a state fire policy; SB 147 addresses restrictions and closures gives counties authority and ability to enforce; SB 404 clarifies criminal liability for firefighters.

**STIP** - Gary Larson – Project Analysis Engineer – The purpose of this document is justify where to spend money on every phase of every project to the federal government.

Wayne Noem – **Secondary Roads** – Project Status Report

Judith River Slide – decided to go with unloading everything let it drain and dry and wait for it to stabilize then decide what to do. Looking at a budget under \$200,000.

Klaggit Hill – unloaded above brought material below. Seems to be holding now.

Secondary 308 outside of Red Lodge – project is much bigger than initially addressed. Work done earlier is now sliding also. Carl Seilstad requested a conference call vote to get the county's perspective of the issue.

**Forest Service** – Diana Allen & Jim Homason? - AMR Appropriate Management Response – parts of the fire will manage heavily (houses), parts of the fire not as many fighters (rocks). Invite the counties when there is a fire to be involved with the planning. Helicopters are less available and moved around on a short-term basis. Initial attack won't change much from previous years.

Carl Seilstad adjourned meeting at 4:37 pm.